

California State Senate

SENATOR
LOIS WOLK
THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



January 30, 2015

TO: Legislative Counsel
FROM: Senator Lois Wolk
RE: UNBACKED BILL: Pacific Maritime Routes

Please draft unbacked language that requires the Instructional Quality Commission, during the next revision of the 8th grade history-social science curriculum framework, to consider including, and recommending for adoption by the state board, instruction on (1) the Pacific Maritime Routes, (2) the significance of those Routes in relation to California's history, and (3) an understanding of the economic impact and cultural settlement role of maritime trade routes, as appropriate. The bill would also require the state board to adopt, modify, or reject the curriculum framework recommended by the commission.

I have attached SR 33 (Migden, 2006) that can be used to draft findings and declarations for Section 1 of the language. I have also attached AB 1912 (Holden, 2014) as an example of similar legislation requiring specific topics be added to the educational curriculum. Finally, I have included 3 other documents (a proclamation and 2 letters) that can serve as additional background.

If you have any questions regarding this request please call Michael Erke in my office at 651-4003 (or cell phone 530-219-4933). I would also like to authorize Riccardo Gaudino to be contacted regarding this request. He can be reached at (415) 933-4742 or by email at goldenbearpress@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Senate Resolution No. 33

Introduced by Senator Migden

Relative to Pacific maritime routes.

WHEREAS, The early settlement and development of California was deeply influenced by the immigrants and goods that came to the state by way of the maritime transportation routes by sailing around the Cape Horn of South America, via the Isthmus of Panama, as well as through the more commonly used routes of transcontinental migration; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific maritime routes are an essential educational component of the state's interpretive history; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of the Pacific maritime routes in relation to the state's history will result in a more comprehensive global understanding of the economic impact and cultural settlement role of maritime trade routes; and

WHEREAS, Scholars and agencies are encouraged to collaborate in their research in order to develop a fair and complete official state historical policy, including the geographical and historic influences, of our historic seafaring population; and

WHEREAS, Californians benefit from the development of a complete California story based on geography, climate, botany, transportation, and human settlement and migration; and

WHEREAS, The role of Pacific maritime transportation in the history of California is conveyed by the images contained in the State Seal of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate encourages the recognition of the significant role maritime transportation routes played in the history and development of California, including, but not limited to, the fact that these routes are responsible for the diverse populations brought to the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate promote an understanding of the distinct origins of the Golden State seafaring populations and an awareness

that their patterns of settlement played a key role in the cultural and economic history of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 33 read and adopted by the Senate August 10, 2006.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate

Assembly Bill No. 1912

CHAPTER 286

An act to add Section 33543 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor August 25, 2014. Filed with
Secretary of State August 25, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1912, Holden. Pupil instruction: history-social science framework: election of President Barack Obama.

Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education. Existing law defines "curriculum framework" as an outline of the components of a given course of study designed to provide state direction to school districts in the provision of instructional programs. Existing law authorizes the state board to consider the adoption of a revised curriculum framework and evaluation criteria for instructional materials in history-social science.

This bill would require the commission, during the next revision of the history-social science curriculum framework, to consider including, and recommending for adoption by the state board, instruction on the election of President Barack Obama and the significance of the United States electing its first African American President, as appropriate. The bill would require the state board to adopt, modify, or reject the curriculum framework recommended by the commission.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The election of Barack Hussein Obama to the office of President of the United States was a historic step in the effort towards equality in the United States.

(b) Before the Civil Rights Movement, intimidation and physical violence prevented millions of African Americans from voting and alienated them from the electoral process.

(c) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a civil rights victory that inspired more ethnic minorities to register to vote and pursue elected office.

(d) Barack Obama attended Harvard Law School where he became the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review.

(e) After law school, Barack Obama worked to fulfill the spirit of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by encouraging people to register to vote.

(f) Barack Obama was first elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996 and to the United States Senate in 2004.

(g) Senator Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States and first African American President on November 4, 2008, and was sworn in on January 20, 2009.

(h) In honor of his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples, President Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

(i) President Obama was reelected on November 6, 2012, and was sworn in for his second term on January 20, 2013.

SEC. 2. Section 33543 is added to the Education Code, to read:

33543. (a) During the next revision of the history-social science curriculum framework, the commission shall consider including, and recommending for adoption by the state board, instruction on the election of President Barack Obama and the significance of the United States electing its first African American President, as appropriate.

(b) The state board shall adopt, modify, or reject the curriculum framework recommended by the commission pursuant to subdivision (a).



*P*roclamation

Pacific 500 Renaissance Month

September, 2013

- WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 500th anniversary of when Spanish conquistador and explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa in Panama, on September 23, 1513, became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean and claimed the waters and all of its shores for Spain; and
- WHEREAS, in 1507, the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller printed the globe map with the name America, to first depict a new continent, not of Europe, Africa or Asia, and the image of a new western ocean, now known as the Pacific; and
- WHEREAS, the California name originates in the myth of Queen Calafia as the beautiful African warrior queen who ruled her island realm of riches, first introduced around 1500 by the Spanish writer Garci Rodriguez de Montalvo's popular novel entitled *Las Seguras de Esplandian* (The Adventures of Esplandian), to inspire the searching Conquistadors to believe they might find a nation of women and fertility somewhere on the Pacific Coast at the edge of the known world; and
- WHEREAS, in 1769, the King of Spain authorized the last colony of Alta California on the Pacific, for ships from San Blas-Mexico arriving to secure safe harbors for the Acapulco-Manila trade, maintained as a commercial route linking the Philippines with Mexico and Peru from 1565 until 1815; and
- WHEREAS, in 1821, Mexican Independence of Alta California Province attracted explorers, immigrants, individualists and youth from all the empires of Britain, Russia, Prussia, France, United States, Portugal, China that came by way of Pacific maritime routes, in particular, sailing around the Cape Horn of South America, and voyaging from ports in Chile, Hawaii, Alaska, Australia, as well as the overland routes from Mexico and Missouri; and
- WHEREAS, the bio-interaction movement across the world oceans of pioneer populations and animals caused new germs to introduce new diseases, often devastating the indigenous inhabitants, but resulted in the cultivation of agricultural staples to support a growing population; and
- WHEREAS, Californians benefit from the Pacific-America world view by being ready to explore the push-pull analysis of influences in history, using the geo-knowledge framework of geography-geology, climate-botany, transportation-commerce, and human settlement and migration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lowell Hurst, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the Watsonville City Council do hereby proclaim the month of September 2013 as, "*Pacific 500 Renaissance Month*" in the City of Watsonville and encourage citizens to help reawaken California's thirst for understanding the unique fact that the global diversity of seafaring populations shaped the cultural capacity for creativity in enterprise in the history of California, and expand knowledge around the world for peace on this monumental occasion.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 23rd day of September, two thousand and thirteen.

Lowell Hurst, Mayor

WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transforming lives by instilling 21st Century skills and inspiring lifelong learning in every student.

June 19, 2014

Dear Mr. Gaudino,

Napa Valley Unified School District supports the instruction and inclusion of geography in the context of the current 8th grade History/Social Science academic standards for California Public School as well as the Pacific Maritime routes established in the 19th century that contributed to settlement of California's coast. Integrating geography and history academic standards with science and math create meaningful connections for our students.

As Napa Valley Unified has a focus on project-based learning this could be woven into a project once our teachers have had opportunity to learn more about this topic.

Very truly yours,

Elena C. Toscano

Elena Toscano
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Napa Valley Unified School District

Board of Education

2425 Jefferson Street
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 253-3511
(707) 253-3855 fax
www.nvusd.k12.ca.us

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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah Field Office
2550 N. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
www.ca.blm.gov/ukiah
Office: (707) 468-4000 Fax: (707) 468-4027



22 August 2014

Riccardo Gaudino
Director of Research
Golden State History

Dear Mr. Gaudino;

The Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office supports your effort in promoting a more holistic view of California History through the teaching of regional histories linked to the Pacific Rim and the world abroad through maritime and terrestrial travel and trade routes. Such a holistic look at history helps to show that local and regional histories do not operate within a vacuum.

The National Treasure curriculum you propose dovetails nicely with California State Senate Resolution 33, Pacific Maritime Routes as well as the new federal Common Core Standards. Pacific Maritime Routes is innately interdisciplinary and has the ability to link the disciplines of history, geography, mathematics, and English.

One of the Bureau of Land Management's mandates is to help preserve the nation's fragile history. A more holistic history curriculum that engages students can help instill a sense of reverence for history in tomorrow's generations.

Sincerely,

Rich Burns
(Field Office Manager)